

democracy and freedom. In the past two decades, Taiwan has truly emerged as a model democracy. Taiwan's economy currently ranks as the 16th largest in the world. As Secretary of State Colin Powell stated, "Taiwan has become a resilient economy, a vibrant democracy and a generous contributor to the international community." I hope that we will continue to help Taiwan proceed on the path toward further democratization and peaceful relations with its neighbors.

The President of Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian, is a dedicated and strong leader for the people of Taiwan. In his May 20 inaugural address to his people, he reiterated his commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, which is vital to the political development and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

In closing, I wish to congratulate President Chen, the Taiwan Ambassador, Dr. David Lee, and the people of Taiwan on their National Day and wish them every success in the years to come.

DETENTION AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF CAPTURED TERRORISTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about, section 514 of the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 which deals with the detention and humane treatment of captured terrorists.

Section 514 was added to the bill as a result of an amendment offered by Senator MCCAIN and Senator LIEBERMAN. I commend them for their leadership on this issue, which is so important to our country, and to our ability to fight an effective war on terrorism.

The 9/11 Commission correctly concluded that the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal has negatively affected our ability to combat the terrorist threat. The Commission wrote, "Allegations that the United States abused prisoners in its custody make it harder to build the diplomatic, political, and military alliances the government will need [to fight the war on terrorism]."

As a result, the Commission recommended, "The United States should engage its friends to develop a common coalition approach toward the detention and humane treatment of captured terrorists." In order to develop a coalition policy on the humane treatment of captured terrorists, the U.S. government must have its own policy that ensures the humane treatment of captured terrorists. That is what section 514 would require.

It will reaffirm a very important, long-standing position of our Nation: that the United States will not engage in torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This is a standard that is embodied in the U.S. Constitution and in numerous international agreements which the United States has ratified.

Section 514 will require the Defense Secretary and the National Intel-

ligence Director, NID, issue policies to ensure compliance with this standard and to provide these policies to Congress.

The Defense Secretary and the NID will also be required to report to Congress on any suspected violations of the prohibition on torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Section 514 specifically provides that this information should be provided to Congress only in a manner and form that would protect national security.

Section 514 is very similar to an amendment that I offered to this year's Defense Authorization bill. My amendment, which was cosponsored by Senators MCCAIN, LEVIN, SPECTER, FEINSTEIN, LEAHY, and KENNEDY, was adopted by the Senate by a unanimous voice vote.

When I offered this amendment, it was supported by a broad coalition of organizations and individuals, including human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch, religious institutions like the Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church, and military officers.

Retired RADM John Hutson was the Judge Advocate General, the top lawyer in the Navy. In a letter in support of the amendment, he wrote:

It is absolutely necessary that the United States maintain the high ground in this area and that Congress take a firm stand on the issue. . . . It is critical that we remain steadfast in our absolute opposition to torture and [cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment].

Former Republican Congressman Pete Peterson, who was a POW in Vietnam for 6½ years, wrote in support of the amendment:

From my 6½ years of captivity in Vietnam, I know what life in a foreign prison is like. To a large degree, I credit the Geneva Conventions for my survival. . . . This is one reason the United States has led the world in upholding treaties governing the status and care of enemy prisoners: because these standards also protect us. . . . We need absolute clarity that America will continue to set the gold standard in the treatment of prisoners in wartime.

As we fight the war on terrorism, we must adhere to the ideals that made our country great. Torture is inconsistent with the principles of liberty and the rule of law that underpin our Constitution.

Any erosion in these standards would endanger American servicemen and women who might be captured by our adversaries. It would also create anti-American sentiment at a time when we need the support and assistance of other countries in the war on terrorism.

The U.S. Army fully recognizes these practical downsides. The Army Field Manual on Intelligence Interrogation states:

Revelation of use of torture by U.S. personnel will bring discredit upon the U.S. and its armed forces while undermining domestic and international support for the war effort. It may also place U.S. and allied personnel in enemy hands at a greater risk of abuse by their captors.

As the great American patriot Thomas Paine said: "He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression."

CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, ten years ago this fall, President Bill Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act into law, preserving 7.7 million acres of stunning landscape for generations to come.

With the passage of this legislation, the largest parks and wilderness bill to impact the lower 48 States was enacted, thereby establishing Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve.

Protecting these beautiful lands stands as one of my proudest legislative accomplishments to this day.

The California Desert is home to remarkable archaeology, beauty and wildlife—some of the last remaining dinosaur tracks, Native American petroglyphs, abundant spring wildflowers, and threatened species including the bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise, an animal known to live for as many as 100 years.

And each of the parks created by the act has its own unique beauty. Joshua Tree, encompassing parts of both the Mojave Desert and the Colorado Desert, contains magnificent rock formations and forests which blanket the high country throughout the park. The abundant yellow creosote bushes of the eastern side of the park are mirrored by the rugged Joshua Trees to the west.

The Death Valley landscape, marked by a diverse range of salt playas, alpine forests, and jagged rocks, is a land of extremes—one of the hottest, driest, and lowest places on Earth. At Dante's View, a visitor may look down into Badwater, the lowest place in the western hemisphere and, on a clear day, look west to Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the lower 48 States.

Mojave National Preserve, with its granite, limestone, and metamorphic rocks, has a remarkable geological diversity, as well as the largest Joshua Tree forest in the world. Many of the preserve's peaks are a vivid pink at the top, the result of a volcanic explosion more than 18 million years ago in Arizona that sent deposits flying through the air and flowing across the land to the Mojave Desert.

The California Desert Protection Act ensured that these lands would be preserved for years to come. In total, the act raised the protection level for 9 million acres of parks and wilderness.

Since 2000 the wilderness area has been expanded even further with the purchase of nearly 600,000 acres of land primarily in and around the Mojave National Preserve. The transaction, the largest conservation acquisition of private lands in U.S. history, combined Federal Land and Water Conservation